



National Association of Letter Carriers

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December 6, 2021

Re: Extension of dispensation for branch and state meetings and elections due to coronavirus

Dear branch or state president:

On December 10, 2020, I issued a letter granting dispensation to all branches to utilize alternative electronic meeting methods, such as video conferencing, through calendar year 2021. This letter recognized that the ongoing coronavirus pandemic had not abated; if anything, it had gotten worse. I also acknowledged the possibility that postponement of in-person events might continue to be necessary to protect the health and safety of our members.

Although there has been some improvement in the overall situation, the pandemic continues to pose significant risks to safety and health. Accordingly, in order to adhere to the requirement to hold monthly meetings, this letter extends the previous dispensation for all branches to utilize alternative electronic meeting methods through calendar year 2022. Branches may also consider other options, which would be consistent with this dispensation. For example, Branches can conduct in-person meetings for those who show proof of vaccination, while allowing all other members to participate by video conference. Alternatively, the Branch may conduct an in-person meeting for everyone, while enforcing COVID protocols such as distancing and masks and may also allow exemptions from masking requirements for members who provide proof of vaccination.

As stated in my previous letter, alternative electronic meeting methods may be used for approval of branch expenditures, deciding appeals, addressing merger proposals, amending By-laws, and conducting other routine branch business that doesn't require secret voting. Alternative electronic meeting methods should include call in features to ensure all members are able to participate. In all instances, appropriate notification should be provided to the members.

Branches and state associations that have postponed nominations and elections that normally are conducted at in-person meetings should implement alternative procedures for conducting nominations and elections expeditiously. This letter extends my previous grant of dispensation to all branches and state associations to conduct nominations and balloting by mail. Branches must send appropriate and timely notice of the procedures to be followed in nominating and electing officers and delegates by mail to all active and retired members.

Branches and state associations may continue to request dispensation from me to implement different procedures. Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Paul Barner may be contacted for advice on using alternative methods of conducting nominations and elections.

Finally, we are continuing to monitor the overall situation, and I may modify this dispensation letter at some point in the future.

Once again, on behalf of the entire NALC Executive Council, I want to thank you for everything you do representing our members.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Fredric V. Rolando
President